

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at Page 7, line 11 with the following new paragraph.

The slide gate 22 can be retracted by the metering cylinder 36, opening the bottom of the material hopper 10, including material passageway 44, and enabling material ingredients in the hopper 10 to dispense, for example, into a weigh chamber 52 below (FIG. 2). Guides 66 can provide alignment and support for the slide gate 22. To seal off the hopper 10, the slide gate 22 can be extended by the metering cylinder 36 until the slide gate 22 closes against a front seal 32. Material can ~~can~~ be kept from dropping out of the back of the metering assembly 14 by a rear seal 34.